

A.R.T. [Aggression Replacement Training]

Volunteer Facilitator Training

Thursday and Friday, June 16th and 17th, 2016
Lower Level Multi-Purpose Room

Volunteer Services is seeking interested volunteers to take part in facilitator training for a new program being implemented for youth on probation. *A.R.T. [Aggression Replacement Training]* is a "Comprehensive Intervention for Aggressive Youth", that is a research-based, proven-effective approach for working with challenging youth. The program has been used in schools, community agencies and juvenile facilities for over 30 years.

The training will include three coordinated and integrated components:

-*Social Skills Training*-teaches participants what to do, helping them replace antisocial behaviors with positive alternatives.

-*Anger Control*– Teaches participants what not to do, helping them respond to anger in a non-aggressive manner and rethink anger-provoking situations.

-*Moral Reasoning*– Helps raise participants' level of fairness, justice, and concern for the needs and rights of others.

As a volunteer facilitator you will be trained to effectively teach the *A.R.T.* curriculum with a partner, in a 10-week course for no more than 8 youth at a time. Each class will take place in the multi-purpose room, after school from 3:30-5:00 p.m., three days a week, with the possibility of a session taking place this summer.

Please contact **Lindsey at 922-4827** for more information on this exciting opportunity.

Please r.s.v.p. to participate by May 17th, 2016.





Volunteer Services is excited to welcome Kathy Nixon, formerly with the Truancy Intervention Department. Many of you have already had the pleasure of working with Kathy, but we wanted to take a moment and thank her for all of her hard work and dedication to making Volunteer Services run as smooth as possible.



From May through August these two new faces will be busy working with Volunteer Services and the Juvenile Probation Dept. for their summer internship. Welcome Brittany Hess and Tori Young.

Brittany and Tori are both criminal justice majors through Ferris State University and will graduate with their bachelor degree's this year.

Brittany is excited to start her internship with Probate & Family Court because she enjoys helping others and being there for people who are in need. She enjoys spending time with her family and her dogs and reading true crime novels.

Tori is excited about the opportunity of changing the lives of youth in her community and help steer them in the right direction. She is looking forward to gaining experience in the court system and juvenile probation. She enjoys reading, walks with her dog Sugar and going fishing.



MAY

Libby Robold
Laura Scott
Christine Pion
Julie Howe
Lee Storch



JUNE

Jean Howell
Barbara Woodruff
Barbara Winburne
Danny Bates
Barb Nelson-Hooper
Nancy Briggs
Janice Meyer
Patti Rose
Lisa Haworth
Kristen Rivard
Debbie Aldridge
Chonda Baggerly
Catherine Simons
Heather Flannery
Faye Youker

Wishing farewell and get-well wishes to long time volunteer, **Karilee Walter**. Karri has volunteered as a guardian and conservator for nearly 12 years. We will miss her expertise and companionship.

Also, wishing farewell and best wishes to **Dave Speirs**, moving so he and his wife can be closer to their grandchildren. Dave has volunteered as a CASA, Learning Partner, transporter, Citizen's Panel member, Guardian, and a Truancy facilitator. Many thanks for all that you have been able to offer to so many volunteer programs, youth and families.

**Thank you Karri & Dave,
you will be missed!**



Learning Partners will be participating in the annual Swim & Water Safety sessions in May! Each Friday afternoon, students and their siblings are invited to increase their confidence and practice new skills.



“Survey Says”: Surveys have been sent out to teachers and staff of each of the matched students. The feedback provides important information about continuing the match, highlights and areas for improvement. Learning Partners also sent a note to parents requesting feedback. June is a time when Volunteer/Student matches “re-up” or transition to new situations.

Summer Continues: Learning Partners is a year-round program, with students meeting with volunteers as schedules allow. There’s always the Back-to-School celebration in August, too!

June Meeting: June 7, 2016

July & August: No meeting

Welcome to new Learning Partner
Volunteers:

**Mary DeGrazia, Nancy Winogrodzki,
Susan Miner, and Heide McNichols**

CASA volunteers have been busy with their cases and attending community events and trainings. On May 2nd the Northern Michigan Regional Resilience Coalition hosted a free movie showing of ‘Paper Tigers’, a documentary highlighting the effects of adverse childhood experiences (ACE’s), on youth attending an alternative high school in Washington and the success of the students after trauma informed approaches were instituted with school staff and several community members.

On May 5th and 6th, many CASA’s attended the Governor’s Task Force Summit on child trafficking at the Grand Traverse Resort. CASA staff looks forward to addressing and expanding on all of these topics in future monthly meetings.

Note: There will be **no** May meeting, see you all in June.

CASA will soon be wrapping up another successful five weeks of new advocate training. Without the time and knowledge of our many facilitators, this training wouldn’t be as meaningful as it is. Many thanks to the following for their continued support of this valuable program:

Mike Long– Tribal Judge and attorney, **Carrie Douglass**-Child Advocate, WRC, **Dr. Cathy Anthofer-Fialon**-Advocate, **Megan Heethuis** and **Katie Benjamin**-DHHS, **Jackie Hexham**-Nexus Family Services, **Dr. Nancy Giles**-Psychologist and CASA volunteer, **Barb Cross**- Maple Clinic, **Amanda Steele**-Senior Prosecuting Attorney and **Nina Merten**-attorney.



Many thanks to the 'Quilt n' Bee' for the many yards of fabric. Several youth have created a number of pillow cases that will be donated to Child & Family Services and other private foster care agencies in Grand Traverse County.

Your donations are greatly appreciated!



CASA of Grand Traverse County would like to give a special thanks to Shen Chefalo for her presentation at the March CASA meeting. Shen gave a heart felt, meaningful discussion on her recently released memoir, "Garbage Bag Suitcase".

Thank you Shen for donating your time to speak on behalf of children in the foster care system to our wonderful group of volunteer CASA's.

Many thanks to the following volunteers who participated in the 'Adult Guardian Review Training' on Wednesday, March 16th.

Dick & Nancy Reddy, Bill Vaillancourt, Kristyn Brendel, Sue Schmidt, Victor Dinsmoore, Renee Stout, Lisa Haworth, Jim Doman, and John Evans

Welcome to Kristyn, Victor and Lisa as new guardianship reviewers. Thanks also to Probate Register, Amanda Flowers for assisting in the training.

Transporters have had a busy few months, making several trips to the Flint area for Midcourse as well as several other trips to the Mackinac City area. Thank you all for your willingness to help out even at a moments notice!

Pictured: Lori Metcalf, Art Nickerson, Bill Vaillancourt, and Victor Dinsmoore



Finding Permanence ~ One CASA volunteer's story of perseverance.



May is 'National Foster Care Awareness Month' and we thought what better way to acknowledge, than sharing a successful CASA story.

All CASA volunteers begin their journey of advocating for children of neglect and/or abuse by completing an extensive training. Learning about the law, diversity, communication skills, effects of substance abuse and domestic violence on children and families, report writing, testifying in court, and so much more. They complete the training with a

celebratory "swearing-in ceremony", where they're appointed by the Family Court Judge as Court Appointed Special Advocates.

The real work starts once a CASA receives the call from the Volunteer Services Department, asking them if they're ready to take on their first case. For Lisa Niergarth, that call resulted in her agreeing to advocate for a sweet brand new baby girl, who had been removed from her parents care and placed in a relative foster care placement.

What seemed to be your typical case, turned out to be nothing but. A case of this nature is generally under the court's jurisdiction from 6-18 months, depending on the circumstances. Lisa's case began for her in early June of 2012 and as noted in the photo above, ended some time later; March 10th of 2016 to be exact, the day of the adoption finalization hearing.

When asked how she was able to commit nearly four years to a case that was thought to only last a year, Lisa responded: "Every time the case took another turn with another delay I would just look back and remember seeing that sweet baby at 3 months of age; this tiny, adorable, bundle, and I knew that I needed to stick with her. Many involved in the case had moved on due to changes in their jobs. This case ended having had three foster care caseworkers, three GAL's, two Judges, and two adoption caseworkers. There was no one there who knew the entire story from the start, except for me and her foster parents."

Lisa feels strongly about how her role as a CASA made a difference in the outcome for this little girl: "Being too young to know what was going on around her, and unable to voice her needs and wants, it was my job to be her advocate, to be her voice. When I signed on to do that, I committed to her that I would be there until the end. By being her advocate and speaking for her all along the way, I have received the gifts of peace and accomplishment knowing that my time and efforts as a volunteer CASA made a positive difference in the life of a child-what on earth could be better than that?"



**VOLUNTEERS IN
PREVENTION/PROBATION**

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE COURT

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

MELANIE D. STANTON, PROBATE & FAMILY COURT JUDGE

280 Washington St., Suite B 150, Traverse City, MI 49684

231-922-4827

Or Current Resident

Learning Partners

1st Tuesday-4:00-5:00 pm

Tuesday, May 3rd, 2016

Tuesday, June 7th, 2016



CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)

3rd Tuesday- 4:00-6:00 pm

Tuesday, May 17th, 2016 (no meeting)

Tuesday, June 21st, 2016



***All meetings are held at the Volunteer Services office unless otherwise mentioned.**

Free Movie Event:

“The Martian”

Monday May 9th, 2016

6:00 p.m.

State Theatre

*call the office at
922-4827 for
ticket information

